



FIAT PAX IN VIRTUTE TUA

ABBAYE SAINT-PIERRE SOLESMES

Foundation Charter of the Monastery of Saint-Pierre de Solesmes

Whereas we are in this life and still possess a body, we have the means to perform good works. We should therefore renounce some part of our goods for God, so that we may receive it again joyfully from his hands in the future life.

For this reason, in the name of God, I, Geoffroy de Sablé, for the redemption of my soul and the souls of all my relatives, both those who have gone before me and those who will come after me, give to God, to the monastery of Saint-Pierre de la Couture, and to the monks who serve God there, the church of Solesmes near the château of Sablé on the edge of the Sarthe Valley. This gift includes all its dependencies, cultivated land, fallow ground, meadows, vineyards and mills. I also give two other hamlets that are part of this village: Chantemêle and Rocheteau.

I also give another village called Melleray, the Bousse estate and everything it owns, including permission to expand into the forest.

I also give the village of Villiers and all its dependencies, which I received from Monseigneur Hugues, Comte du Mans, under certain conditions of military service and finance.

In addition, I bestow part of the hamlet of Bouessay, including the rights of justice and other customary taxes; this is the part that was owned by Primauld, a devout man who has left the world to devote himself to God. I give the château of Sablé's full burial rights. For the love of God, I also grant exemption from the tax for guarding the château. I also give the estate of Bernières beyond the River Mayenne.

All that I have listed above, I give and renounce what I possessed as fief and in my own right. I forego all the customary taxes for all this land and villages, namely: rights of

justice, forest grazing rights, hunting rights, regulation rights and statute labour rights. In this way, my officers of justice, forest wardens, dog valets and even my dogs may henceforth no longer live on this land.

On the day of the dedication of this church of Saint-Pierre de Solesmes, I, Geoffroy de Sablé, presented this charter to Hugues, Comte du Mans, who came to the consecration of this church at my request, so that he might confirm it. Willingly agreeing to my request, he confirmed this charter by his own authority, marking it with the sign of the cross. Avesgaud, Bishop of Le Mans, and Hubert, Bishop of Angers, were present. At my request, both of them ratified and confirmed this charter by their authority and episcopal power.

This act was also confirmed by me, Geoffroy de Sablé, author of this gift, my wife Adèle and our son Dreux.

Should any of our heirs, either from our own family or another, be influenced by the Devil to diminish or completely contravene this charter stating our legitimately established gift, may they, by the authority of God our Almighty Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, of St Michael the Archangel and the whole company of heaven, of the priests, deacons, sub-deacons and all Christians, be excommunicated, anathematized, cursed and cast into hell for all eternity unless they make satisfaction and reparation for the evil they dared to commit. Amen.

Signatures of Vicomte Raoul – of Eudes, his brother – of Patrice – of Hugues the surveyor – of Guillaume Trébil – of Aimery – of Renaud le Jeune – of Comte Hugues – of Geoffroy de Sablé – of Adèle, wife of Geoffroy – of Dreux, their son – of Renaud Grasseau – of Avesgaud, Bishop of Le Mans – of Hubert, Bishop of Angers – of Angibaud, abbot – of Robert the Grammarian – of Guérin, who composed and wrote up this charter – of Garnier, monk – of Raimbert, monk.